

REMARKS

Reconsideration and formal examination of this application are respectfully requested.

The Office required an election of species. Specifically, the application was deemed to contain claims directed to patentably distinct species comprised of polypeptides encoded by the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NO: 1 listed in claims 51-54. The Office required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. According to the Office, claims 51-54 are generic.

Applicants elect the protein encoded by ORF6 of SEQ ID NO:1. This protein is described in paragraph [0063] at page 10 of the specification, and the location of corresponding ORF is described on page 13 (paragraph [0092]).

In claim 51, ORF6 protein is encoded by polynucleotides e) to j). In claim 52, ORF6 protein is encoded by polynucleotides a) to e). In claim 53, ORF6 protein is encoded by polynucleotides e) to i). In claim 54, ORF6 protein is encoded by polynucleotides a) to e).

Claim 57 has been added to the application and is directed to the elected species. Claims 51-54 are generic claims and read on the elected species.

Applicants understand that upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141.

Formal examination of this application and allowance of the claims at the Examiner's convenience are respectfully requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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